IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 20 of the application.

Pyrimidine biosynthesis is a series of enzymatically catalyzed processes that convert carbamoyl phosphate and aspartic acid into cytidine triphosphate. About midway along the pathway lies the conversion of dihydroorotic acid to orotic acid by the dehydroorotate dehydrogenase enzyme. ~~Leflunomide~~Leflunomide, N-(4'-trifluoromethylphenyl)-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide (I), disrupts pyrimidine biosynthesis by inhibiting this enzyme.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 4 of the application.

The resulting leflunomide may be used directly or after further purification in pharmaceutical compositions and dosage forms as described, for instance, in commonly-assigned co-pending application Serial No. ~~[Attorney docket No. 1662/50702]~~ 09/736727, published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0031878, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the original abstract with the following abstract.

A process for synthesizing leflunomide from 5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxylic acid and 4-trifluoromethylaniline is provided in which the carboxylic acid group of 5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxylic acid is chlorinated, forming 5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxylic

acid chloride. The acid chloride is then reacted without intermediate distillation with 4-trifluoromethylaniline in the presence of an alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal bicarbonate acid scavenger. ~~Further provided is the leflunomide prepared by the inventive process, which is substantially free of difficult-to-separate impurities often found in leflunomide prepared by known methods, including N-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-cyano-3-hydroxycrotonamide, 5-methyl-N-(4-methylphenyl)-isoxazole-4-carboxamide and N-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-3-methyl-isoxazole-4-carboxamide. The invention further provides pharmaceutical compositions and dosage forms containing highly pure leflunomide and methods of treating disease using the leflunomide.~~

REMARKS

This response presents three amendments to the specification. The first amendment is a grammatical correction to insert a comma after the word "Leflunomide." The second amendment updates a citation to a commonly-assigned, co-pending application providing its serial number and publication number. The third amendment is a revised abstract which describes the process aspect of the invention and is thus believed to be more useful to the public in determining the nature of the invention claimed in the issued patent from a cursory inspection. The amendments do not add new matter. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments to the specification.

The pending claims are claims 1-26 and 29-40. Claims 1-26 have been allowed and claims 29-40 have been rejected. Claims 29-40 are canceled without prejudice by this amendment and will be represented in a continuation application in order to expedite allowance of claims 1-26 of this application. It is believed that claims 1-26 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the number below. The undersigned may also be contacted by email at pjohnson@kenyon.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: August 13, 2003

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